

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's Number
Number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

114-0-13-0

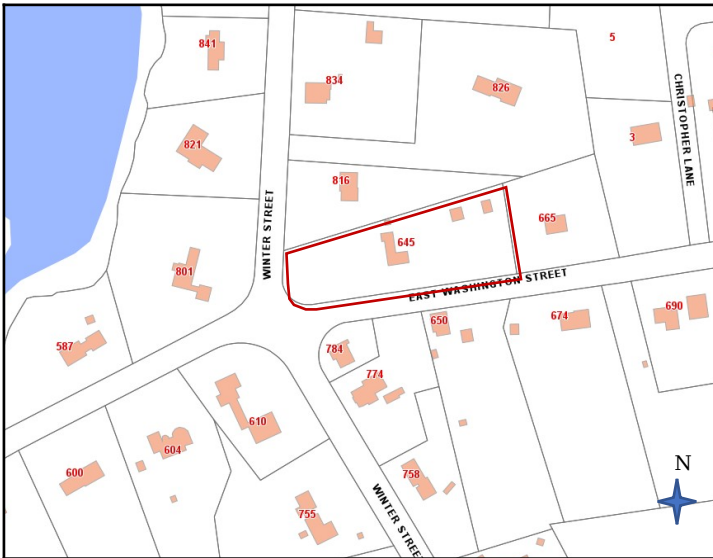
Hanover

HNS.205

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

Date (month / year): June 2018

Town/City: Hanson

Place: *(neighborhood or village):*

Address: 645 East Washington Street

Historic Name: Seth and Hannah Harris
House

Uses: Present: Single-Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1847

Source: Massachusetts Marriage Records,
1856 Walling Map, Visual Assessment

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Three wood shingled sheds located to the north and northeast of the house, stockade fence to northwest of house, and retaining wall to south of the house

Major Alterations *(with dates):* Nineteenth century ell and one-story addition to north façade, and original chimneys removed

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ **yes** ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.18 Acres

Setting: Located on one of Hanson's main thoroughfares in an area of predominantly single-family homes ranging from early eighteenth century farmhouses to late twentieth century suburban development on large lots which includes grass lawns and numerous mature trees, bushes, and other vegetation.

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The two-story, Greek Revival style house is symmetrical in design with a shallow asphalt shingled roof over a rectangular original building form. A long two-story ell extends under a cross-gable roof from the northwest corner of the north façade of the house ending in a second, lower one-story gable roofed addition at the north end of the building. The house is wood clapboard sided with wood trim and newer six-over-six wood windows. The gable roof overhangs the north and south facades with painted wood eaves and soffits above a flat wood cornice and corner boards. On the east and west gable-ends, the roof overhangs the facades just enough to provide space for the wood trim along the soffits surrounding the pediment. Short, narrow returns are also visible on each gable-end over the corner boards. The windows have flat wood frames which stand out slightly from the wood clapboard facades and narrow, projecting wood sills. Two tall, corbeled, rectangular brick chimneys are located in the north facade ell - one at the intersection of the original house and the ell and the second at the center of the ell along the ridge.

The house faces south towards the street and has an entirely symmetrical front façade with two double hung windows on each floor to either side of the center entrance, with a fifth window on the second floor centered over the entrance below. The entrance is Greek Revival in design with its door set into the center of a wide opening framed with heavy wood molding. The door appears to be a solid wood door beneath a Queen Anne style decorative wood storm door. On either side of the door are sidelights with eight narrow glass panes over a short wood panel below. The door opens onto a small at-grade landing. A short set of stairs with wrought iron railings leads down through a stone block retaining wall to the driveway below.

On the west façade, a single window is located in the gable-end and is topped by a tall, pointed arched fan style wood panel. Two double hung windows are located on each floor below. The west wall of the north façade ell is flush with the west gable-end, so that the lower edge of the gable roof projects out beyond the wall at the north edge of the gable-end. The gables and walls are trimmed to match the rest of the house, and its west façade has three windows on each floor. The one-story addition to the north façade of the ell projects out from the northwest corner of the building and appears to have a narrower version of the same trim found on the main house with a side entrance on its south façade. A long wood stockade fence extending from the southwest corner of the house encloses the northwest side of the property and obscures the lower half of the west façade.

The east gable-end of the original house is a duplicate of the west façade. The north façade ell is set well back from the northeast corner of the house and appears to only stretch half way across the original north façade. The east façade of the ell has one window in the right corner of the second floor. On the first floor, a door is located near the middle of the façade with a double hung window to either side. The east façade of the one-story addition is flush with the east-façade of the ell and has a small gable-end dormer in its lower gable roof. A wide casement window is located below the dormer.

The house is located on a long lot which is bordered by East Washington Street to the south and Winter Street to the west. The northwest corner of the lot is enclosed by a wood stockade fence which sits behind dense

Continuation sheet 3

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vegetation running along Winter Street and around the southwest corner of the site. The house sits slightly above the street behind a cobblestone retaining wall which separates the house from the semi-circular asphalt paved driveway and the street. A low fieldstone wall runs along East Washington Street from the house to the southeast corner of the property. To the east of the house, the yard is open grass with a few mature trees. A small, narrow wood sided shed is located to the east of the house near the street and two larger, also gable roofed, wood sided sheds are located to the northeast of the house near the corner of the property. A wood ramp is located to the west of the house and leads from the driveway to an opening in the wood stockade fence to the left of the building.

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Although this property is listed as 665 Washington Street in White's *History of Hanson*, the current building footprint of the house at 645 East Washington Street matches the building footprint shown on early maps for this property. Working backwards from the deeds, 645 E. Washington Street is eventually traced back to Eliza Harris.

According to White's *History*, this house was built in 1839 by Nathaniel Harris for his own use and as of 1932, had remained in the Harris Family ever since. Both the 1856 Walling Map and 1879 Walker Atlas show S.L. Harris, the son of Nathaniel and Mercy (Blood) Harris, as the owner of the home but there is clearly no home here on the 1830 Smith Plan. Nathaniel Harris was born in Connecticut and appears to have lived his adult life in Boston, where Seth Lathrop Harris (1816-1901) and his other children were all born. Nathaniel died in 1832, and it is more likely that Seth moved to Hanson sometime after his father's death and before his marriage to Hannah Josselyn (1810-1899), daughter of Deborah and Francis Josselyn. Hannah married Seth L. Harris, then a brick mason, in 1847.¹ The 1870 U.S. Census shows that they lived with Seth's sisters, Charlotte and Mary. On the 1903 Richards Atlas, the house belongs to Miss E. Harris, likely their only daughter, Eliza, (b. 1847) who would have inherited the property after her father's death. Eliza married James A. Josselyn(d.1933) in 1922 and according to White's *History of Hanson*, was still lived in the house in 1932.

In 1937, Eliza sold the property to Mabel and Milton Hammond. The 1940 U.S. Census shows that she continued to live with them and lists Eliza as Milton's mother-in-law. Both the 1930 and 1940 U.S. Censuses list Milton as being a cutter in a shoe factory. After that, the property changed hands several times between 1937 and 1956. Robert and Jean C. Richter purchased the property from Robert and Margaret M. Lovejoy in 1956.² They lived in the home for almost fifty years. Jean died in 2010, leaving the house to a trust.³ The current owner, Kathleen Berry, purchased the home from the Jean Richer Trust in 2013.⁴

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Obituaries, Burial information, and Family Trees, www.findagrave.com

¹ At this time, they likely obtained a second property located at 418 E. Washington Street from Hannah's parents, Deborah and Francis Josselyn.

² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 2501, Page 15

³ <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/southofboston-ledger/obituary.aspx?n=jean-c-richter&pid=142024686>

⁴ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 42870, Page 139

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